

JOBS FOR A CARBON FREE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM ACT
Congressman Mark DeSaulnier

Achieving a near-zero carbon transportation system
and a world-class, connected rail network
while providing a transition for the fossil fuel workforce
and promoting environmental justice

1. Federal grant program that provides funds to states/regions/localities to create “Low Carbon Corridors”

- a. Grant recipients will have the flexibility to create these corridors to suit the needs of the region, but they must focus on creating the lowest possible carbon footprint, transportation inter-connectivity, and infrastructure reinvestment.
- b. All projects awarded grant funding under this program shall follow all Davis-Bacon and Davis-Bacon-related labor provisions, including the following, if applicable:
 - i. Davis-Bacon Act for construction;
 - ii. Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act for goods;
 - iii. McNamara-O’Hara Service Contract Act for services;
 - iv. Work Hours and Safety Standards Act for construction; and
 - v. Fair Labor Standards Act for public and private sector workers.
- c. Eligibility:
 - i. Applicants must show they can create a connected systems-management corridor that connects the public transportation system, rail, and roadways.
 - ii. Applicants would need to incorporate low-carbon and investment mechanisms within the Low Carbon Corridor. Examples of mechanisms are:
 - 1. HOT lanes
 - 2. Value capture
 - 3. Transit-oriented development and high density
 - 4. Carbon fees
 - 5. AV/EV lanes that are timed and connected to the transit system
 - 6. Smart Cities-type connectivity and innovation
 - 7. High-Speed Rail
 - 8. Supporting alternative modes of transportation (bikes and pedestrian)
- d. Strategic Partnerships
 - i. Recipients may create strategic partnerships with non-profit organizations and universities in developing their Low Carbon Corridor blueprints.
- e. DOT and EPA Benchmarks
 - i. DOT and EPA, together, must monitor how the Low Carbon Corridors are reducing carbon emissions and how the mechanisms help in those reductions.

- f. Use of American Products
 - i. A grant recipient shall ensure that any iron, steel, and manufactured products used in projects carried out with such funds are produced in the United States.
 - 1. Waivers may be granted under certain circumstances (*See [Rebuild America's Schools Act](#), H.R. 865, Sec. 304*)

2. National Value Capture Program

- a. Creates federal value capture TIF (tax increment financing) districts.
 - i. Reinvests this funding in our public transportation system.
- b. Provides technical assistance grants to develop value capture mechanisms.
- c. Requires a national database of value capture best practices for state and local value capture mechanisms that promote greater investment in public transportation and affordable transit-oriented development.
- d. Expands long-term local funding for public infrastructure and affordable transit-oriented development through private activity bonds.
- e. Encourages/incentivizes affordable transit-oriented development, mobility, public transportation, and dense transit hubs.

3. Community Transition Grants

- a. Provide grant funding to localities/municipalities, in conjunction with the State, to develop transition plans for workers and the community from traditional energy sectors.
 - i. Coordination between Secretaries of Labor and Energy to establish the grant program
- b. Eligibility
 - i. Secretary of Labor may award the grants to local governments that establish industry or sector partnerships (as defined in the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, 29 U.S.C. § 3102).
 - 1. Includes industry representatives, labor unions, higher education institutions, state/local government, economic development agencies, and nonprofit and community-based organizations
 - ii. Community must have an average to high percentage of traditional energy-sector jobs, as determined by the Department of Energy by referring, in part, to its 2017 U.S. Energy and Jobs Report
- c. Use of Funds
 - i. To develop a transition plan; and

- ii. To support an existing apprenticeship program for apprenticeable occupation or, if in a non-traditional industry, develop an apprenticeship program. This apprenticeship funding can be used to train individuals who are new to the workforce for jobs in sustainable industries, including but not limited to, manufacturing, autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, renewable energy, CERCLA remediation, and may include a partnership or agreements with employers to provide jobs for trainees
 - 1. “Apprenticeship” defined in H.R. 4447
- d. Transition Plan Requirements
 - i. The transition plan must include assistance for accessing all existing applicable federal and state aid for displaced workers, including unemployment insurance, job transition training, and community services for the affected community as well as trade adjustment assistance and other programs, if applicable; and
 - ii. The transition plan may also include assistance to supplement existing federal and state aid, including funds for bridges to retirement for older workers, wage insurance for workers who find employment in lower wage jobs, and funding for significant career change training for workers who wish to change careers, including case management and career path counseling.
- e. Jobs Guarantee: If the community executes the plan in good faith, but all workers are not successfully transitioned, the federal government will provide a job guarantee and additional training
 - i. Establish a National Employment Corps (NEC) administered by the Department of Labor
 - ii. NEC would administer employment grants to eligible entities, including state, county, and local governments and Indian Nations, to engage in direct employment projects
 - iii. NEC shall work with federal agencies to identify areas of needed investment in the U.S. economy (ex: infrastructure, energy efficiency retrofitting, elder care, child care, job training, education, health services)
 - iv. If projects at the local, county, or state level are inadequate to maintain full employment in the region, the Secretary shall intervene in the locality to provide adequate employment opportunities
 - v. Governments receiving grants must develop employment proposals in conjunction with community leaders, labor organizations, local governments, and local residents to ensure the proposals will serve the needs of the constituents and available pool of labor. The employment proposals may not be used to employ individuals who will replace or speed the displacement of existing employees or individuals who would otherwise perform similar work
 - vi. The program will cover wage, benefits, and material expenses
 - vii. Participants are eligible if they lose their job or anticipate soon losing their job due to a transition from traditional energy sources

- viii. Participants shall be included in an established bargaining unit and covered by any applicable collective bargaining agreement
- ix. To assist with an individual's move from the job guarantee to other employment opportunities, the program shall establish a website and database listing individuals employed under the program as available for, and seeking, employment. Individuals shall be allowed up to one day (8 hours) per employed month to seek alternative employment and for professional development.
- x. The wage for employees should be set using comparable wages in the region or \$15 an hour, whichever is greater, plus benefits, and indexed to inflation. Wage variation would be built into the program to account for workers' previous experience, education, and region of residence, as well as the prospect of promotion within the NEC.
- xi. To manage projects past, present, and future, the NEC shall create a website where all projects will be listed.
- xii. NEC shall also offer the following services to participants:
 - 1. Supportive services
 - 2. Wrap-around services, including:
 - A. Transportation
 - B. Childcare
 - C. Job preparation services
 - D. Counseling
 - 3. Adult education and literacy activities
 - 4. Activities to assist justice-involved individuals